Cor. Main and Parker Sts.

Phone Main 145

The Community Church

Arthur F. Fruhling, Pastor

Vacaville, Calif.

Jn. 3:16 God so loved the world.
Jn. 17:9 I pray not for the world.

Intro. An apparent contradiction.

Back of this apparent contradiction there must be a fundamental consistency.

I. The Xn understanding of life revolts against exclusiveness, especially spiritual exclusiveness.

The Xn religion goes in the direction of an ever-expanding comprehension.

Growth in grace is growth in sympathetic inclusiveness.

The size & quality of our fellowship measures the extent of our growth.

"Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself."

"Thou shalt love thine enemies."

No one excluded from circle of Xn sympathy & fellowship.

2. Yet X prayed, "I prayed not for the world."

Yet the whole world was the object of X's yearning affection & redemptive desire

"that they all may be one, as thou, Father, art in me & I in thee, that they also may be one in us, that the world may believe that thou hast sent me."

The apparent exclusion is only

2/ for the ultimate purpose of redeeming the whole world.

II. Thru the means & ministry of the chosen few the whole world is to be redeemed.

The chosen few are not to be an exclusive set, living by & for themselves but are to serve for the transmission of God's redemptive love to all the world.

Not chosen to privilege, but to service
Not to hoard the blessings of life but to share them with all others.

They are not circles, excluding & excluding; but centers of radiation sending forth the light & love of God.

III. By what power, by what means are they thus to serve & radiate?

1. By the force & driving power of redeemed character.

In fellowship, in family life, in business methods, in social standards as demonstrated by them are the influences that will cause the world to know God & believe in Him.

Conclusion. Are we ready for the Master's use?

Do we really believe in the possibility of the world's redemption?

Are we radiating the light & transmitting the power of X?

The natives on the island of Ambrym, in the New Hebrides, have a word for love which literally means "The heart keeps calling calling for me".

They do define their "love of God as "the heart-calling of God".